

## Airmen of Note Notes



**W**ith the brand new year, the Airmen of Note once again had the distinct honor of participating in events related to the arrival of a new presidential administration. Aside from rehearsing for and marching in the 2001 Inaugural Parade, the Note teamed up with the Singing Sergeants for a star-studded tribute to our nation's veterans.

Joining the Airmen of Note, President and Mrs. George W. Bush and Vice-President and Mrs. Richard B. Cheney were Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, outgoing Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen, Senator John McCain, Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Henry H. Shelton, former Senator Robert J. Dole and actors Robert Conrad and Gerald McRaney in a salute to our nation's military veterans. Also in attendance were dozens of Congressional Medal of Honor recipients.

In late January, the Note presented a Jazz Heritage Series performance. Legendary tenor saxophonist Kirk Whalum played to a packed house at the Lincoln Theatre in Washington, D.C. During the performance, Whalum showed his versatility not only in the gospel-influenced contemporary jazz style that has made him famous, but also in more traditionally styled selections. Hosting the night's festivities was the incomparable Leigh Hamilton of Smooth Jazz WJZW 105.9 FM radio. Guests for the performance included dozens of Air Force chief master sergeants from around the national capital region. One special guest was the commandant of the Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, CMSgt Samuel Whalum, Jr. – yes, that name is Whalum: CMSgt Whalum is Saxophonist Whalum's cousin!

In addition to supporting the Air Force Band's 2001 Guest Artist Series, the Airmen of Note will perform in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Tennessee during our 2001 Spring Tour beginning late March. You can check the city and date of our performances either on page 5 of this issue of **Cadenza**, or on the Air Force Band website at <http://www.bolling.af.mil/band/>. If we wander into your neck of the woods, please come by and give us a big howdy!

—MSgt Joe Jackson



*Kirk Whalum in performance with the Airmen of Note*

## Silver Wings

**T**he year 2001 has begun and Silver Wings has hit the ground running. But before January 1 came around, TSgt Marie Mindnich managed to squeeze in one last notable performance. Sergeant Mindnich was selected to perform with the Singing Sergeants on the "Late Show with David Letterman." This *Salute To The Military* was broadcast internationally to millions of viewers, and was a highlight of her career. Way to go Marie!

The new year brought members of Silver Wings into the ceremonial realm of the 2001 Inaugural Parade. SMSgt Chip Clemmer and TSgts Travis James Humphrey, Marie Mindnich and Matt Ascione were each involved in some aspect of the inaugural festivities. The opportunity to be a part of such an historic and momentous occasion brought a sense of pride that cannot be put into words. What an honor to have been a part of something that was larger than oneself and such an important part of history! It is something we will never forget.

The Barnstormers, which includes CMSgt James Queen, MSgt Chris Kosky, TSgt Travis James Humphrey, and occasionally, TSgt Marie

Mindnich, have been quite busy. Among the most notable performances for the group was the Joint Services Farewell to Secretary of Defense William Cohen, hosted by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Henry H. Shelton. The Barnstormers were featured as the finale of the event, which included performances by all the service bands. Chief Queen penned *The Ballad of William Cohen*, which was one of the two selections presented. We are pleased to say that the Barnstormers received the only standing ovation of the evening for their songs.

Another highlight of our winter was the February 25 Guest Artist Series concert featuring country music legend Glen Campbell! This event was held at DAR Constitution Hall, and Silver Wings was there to lend a hand, providing backup to this great performer.

We hope to see you all at our next performances. all. Check out the schedule that is provided on page 5 of this issue of **Cadenza**. Until next time...

—TSgt Matt Ascione